New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

Communications New Brunswick

N.B. Human Rights Commission

Human Rights Commission welcomes Supreme Court decision (04/12/10)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - The following statement was issued today by Alanna Palmer, chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission:

"The Human Rights Commission welcomes the Supreme Court of Canada's decision supporting same-sex marriage. We are also pleased that the court confirmed the right of religious communities to choose whether or not to perform these marriages.

"An important point that the court made was that the recognition of equality rights for one group cannot in itself constitute a violation of the rights of others. It is our opinion that the Supreme Court has struck a fine balance.

"As the federal draft bill states, marriage 'strengthens commitment in relationships and represents the foundation of family life for many Canadians.' That is why it is important to grant equal recognition, rights and responsibilities to the gay and lesbian couples who decide to make such a profound commitment.

"The Human Rights Commission is hopeful that the New Brunswick government will act promptly to make the necessary changes to legislation to affirm the equality rights of gay and lesbian couples."

04/12/10

MEDIA CONTACT: Alanna Palmer, chair, New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, 506-453-2301 or 1-888-471-2233.

04/12/10